

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were presented by Applicants. Claim 2-3, 7, and 14 are canceled. Claim 15 is added. Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10 and 13 are amended. No new matter is being added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for participating in a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney on October 5, 2004. These Remarks reflect the results of that discussion.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended each of those claims to recite a "computer-implemented method," which is statutory subject matter, and the Examiner is therefore asked to withdraw the rejection.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Basani et al. (Basani).

Claim 1 as amended recites:

A computer-implemented method for efficiently parsing input data, comprising:
receiving a data file;
retrieving a stored version of the data file and a template/token tree corresponding to the data file, the tree including at least one static node;
comparing the stored version of the data file with the received data file to identify non-matching content in the received data file;
parsing only the non-matching content of the received data file to form at least one subtree;
replacing at least one static node of the template/token tree with a token;
and
creating a mapping from each token to one of the subtrees.

The claimed invention enables an efficient method for parsing input data such as, for example, a web page, and provides a benefit where a large volume of data is being retrieved and parsed, such as in the case of a server that provides derivative services. By comparing a retrieved version of a file against a cached version, the claimed invention determines which portion of the file includes dynamic content, forms subtrees from the dynamic content, and replaces the dynamic portion of an AST representation of the file with a token, which is then mapped to the subtrees. This significantly reduces the amount of parsing required each time a different version of a page is retrieved. An

example of a template/token tree that includes tokens and in which the tokens are mapped to subtrees is provided in Fig. 7 of Applicants' specification.


Basani does not teach, suggest or disclose the claimed invention. Basani discloses a method for reliable and scalable distribution of data files in distributed networks. Unlike the claimed invention, which is directed to parsing large volumes of input data, Basani provides a solution "to manage the problem of rapid content distribution from a master copy," (col. 1, lines 62-63). Put a different way, the claimed invention is primarily focused on solving a many-to-one scalability problem where many sources of data are being retrieved, while Basani attempts to solve a one-to-many problem of distribution. Because the two approaches are focused on different problems, unsurprisingly Basani does not disclose the claimed invention. For example, while the claimed invention retrieves (but does not necessarily parse) an entire data file each time a file is requested, even though most of the content of the file may be unchanged since it was last retrieved, Basani maintains that "sending entire files for an update is relatively inefficient, when only a small amount of data may have actually changed out of millions of bytes in the file," (col. 2, lines 17-19). Again, since Basani is focused on a different problem, he teaches away from the claimed invention. While Basani refers to trees at the portion cited by the Examiner, it is again in the context of how to distribute data, not how to parse retrieved data: "Transport-layer protocols interact with distribution controllers to automatically determine an optimized tree-like distribution sequence to group leaders..." (col. 4, line 67 - col. 5 line 2, emphasis added). Clearly, Basani does not disclose the steps of the claimed invention, including comparing stored versions of the data file with the received data file to identify non-matching content; parsing only the non-matching content to form subtrees, replacing static nodes of the tree with tokens, or mapping the tokens to the subtrees. Since Basani does not anticipate claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Basani and the rejection should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 3-5 are also patentable over Basani, both because they each recite their own patentable features, and because they depend from patentable claim 1. Independent claims 6, 8-11, 13 and 15 are also patentable over Basani for reasons analogous to claim 1, and dependent claim 12 is patentable because it recites its own patentable features and because it depends from patentable claim 11.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is asked to issue a speedy Notice of Allowance allowing all claims now pending, claims 1, 4-6, 8-13 and 15.

The Examiner is also invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to discuss any outstanding matters requiring attention prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheng Liang *et al*

Date: October 7, 2004

By: 
Daniel R. Brownstone, Reg. No. 46,581
FENWICK & WEST LLP
Silicon Valley Center
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Tel: (415) 875-2358
Fax: (415) 281-1350